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12 August 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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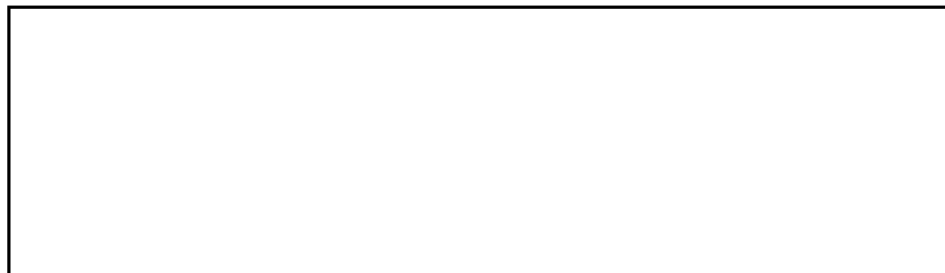
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12 August 1963

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

25X1



3. Arab States: Iraq and Syria may be moving toward union excluding Egypt. (Page 4)

25X1



5. Colombia: President Valencia is in a firmer position following failure of the Communist-inspired general strike on 9 August. (Page 6)

25X1



7. Notes: South Korea; Rumania-US. (Page 8)

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

12 August 1963

DAILY BRIEF

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Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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Arab States: (The Baathist regimes of Iraq and Syria may be moving closer to some form of union which would exclude Egypt.)

(Following President Nasir's withdrawal from the tripartite unity agreement and his continuing propaganda attacks on the Baath Party, the leaders of the two countries recently held a conference aimed at developing a joint future strategy on Arab unity. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

[redacted] it was decided that a delegation headed by Iraqi President Salam Arif would be sent to Cairo in the near future in a pro forma attempt to get Nasir to agree to unity on Baath terms. If Nasir rejects these terms, as he is almost certain to do, the Baathist leaders of Syria and Iraq plan to begin a phased unification of the two countries.)

(Such a union would serve as visible proof of the Baathists' devotion to Arab unity and as a rebuttal to Nasir's claim to pre-eminence in the unity movement.)

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Colombia: President Valencia's position seems more firm following the failure of the Communist-inspired general strike on 9 August.

Leftist leaders, however, plan to continue a series of popular pressures. The army reportedly would move against Valencia only if future demonstrations get out of hand. In this case, the military leaders would request Valencia's resignation in favor of a provisional junta, rather than take strong repressive measures against the people.

The armed forces have been on alert status since 6 August, the day they were granted special powers by the cabinet for preventive arrest. Among those arrested in the following 48 hours was ex-dictator Rojas Pinilla, who was accused of preparing a coup during Valencia's 8 August visit to Venezuela.

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NOTES

25X1

South Korea: Gen. Pak Chong-hui, head of South Korea's military junta, has arrested his most outspoken critic, retired Lt. Gen. Song Yo-chan. "Tiger" Song, a former defense and prime minister in the junta, has threatened since his resignation in the summer of 1962 to reveal details of junta members' shady deals. He was arrested by the South Korean Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) on 11 August, just three days after publishing an open letter to Chairman Pak attacking his dictatorial trends and calling on Pak to renounce plans to run for president in the forthcoming fall elections.

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Rumania-US: As part of its effort to improve generally its relations with the US, the Rumanian Government has proposed a visit to the US "in the near future" by Gaston-Marin, chairman of the Rumanian State Planning Commission, for discussions with US trade experts. Rumania has indicated interest in purchasing equipment for its chemical, oil, rubber, cellulose, paper, television, and radio industries. In 1962 Rumanian-US trade totaled only \$1.5 million, although Rumania's trade with other Western industrial countries has been growing rapidly.

25X1

12 Aug 63

DAILY BRIEF

8

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